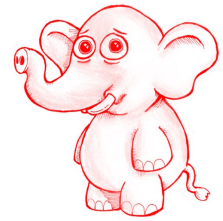


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 3, Issue 7

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Winter 2017

It's Frog Dissection Time!



By Allison Zattola
and Skylher Reyes
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writers

This week and next week, all the seventh grade classes will be dissecting frogs. We dissect frogs because their insides are the most identical to ours.



With a partner, we will dissect the frogs and look inside of them. We will observe the frogs and take further looks at them.

We've also heard that the only bad part about frog dissection is the smell. The frogs often smell like vinegar and might give you a headache.

But overall the inside of the frogs are clean . . . besides the smell.

Dissection—Pros and Cons



By Ray Mandel-Mueller
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Around now, the seventh grade is fixated on the frog dissection part of the science curriculum. The date of this dissection is on January 27th this year. Many students have conflicting opinions on animal dissection. These are the pros and cons of animal dissection.

Pros of Animal Dissection

One of the pros of animal dissection is that the hands-on experience may make it easier to understand anatomy. The visual context helps some students understand anatomy better.

The experience of touching the animal makes it easier to remember lessons, also. Lastly, it helps some students prepare for tests or exams on anatomy.

Another pro of animal dissection is that it may encourage students to enter the biology field or motivate students already interested in biology. A student may, after seeing how complex the animal's body is, want to learn more about animals, and therefore biology. Lastly, a student who is already interested in biology may find more motivation by actually getting to experience the lesson.

Lastly, the dissection helps implement the scientific method and procedure. The fine details and precision teaches students to be methodical when doing a sci-

ence experiment. This helps when doing labs later on.

Cons of Animal Dissection

The first con of animal dissection is that it is cruel to the animals. The animals are often treated cruelly through their lives, then killed cruelly. There are almost six million animals killed every year for students to dissect!

The second con is that the killing of animals is not needed. There are many online dissection websites that do not require an animal to be killed every time someone uses them. There are also models that can be used to simulate the dissection. The models and websites do not require the mass killing of animals each year.

Lastly, dissection is expensive. A dissection set, although only purchased once, costs about \$1000. Then, a three year supply of frogs costs about \$1500, and a three year supply of pig fetuses costs \$3000. Now, say a science teacher works thirty years, and does a frog dissection once per year. That is about \$16,000 dollars spent on frog dissection during that teacher's career!

In conclusion, there are many pros and cons of animal dissection. A benefit of animal dissection is that it is educational, and a con of animal dissection is that the killings are cruel and unnecessary. These are important things to consider before dissecting the frog.

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The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from Somers Middle School
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PLAYOFFS

It's Down to 4!



PLAYOFFS



By Jesse Heller
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

The first game on Saturday between the Falcons and Seahawks was a great game in the first half until the Falcons pulled through in the second half. Seahawks kick/punt returner Devin Hester had some amazing returns that would have brought Seattle into great field position if they had not been called back by penalties. P

Penalties were a big reason why the Hawks lost but as I said last week, the Falcons offense is amazing and they proved just that by scoring 36 points as well with Matt Ryan throwing for 338 yards to 8 different receivers and 3 touchdowns.

Saturday night's game between the Patriots and Texans wasn't as bad as most people thought it would be although the Patriots still won by a commanding 18 points. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady had thrown only two interceptions all year but threw two more in just one game. Dion Lewis was really the star of the game though having a 98 yard kick return, a 13 yard touchdown catch, and a 1 yard touchdown rush. He is the only player in NFL postseason history to get a kick return, receiving, and rushing touchdown in one game.

Since the Steelers and Chiefs game got moved to Sunday night because of an ice storm, the Cowboys and Packers were the first game on Sunday. These were two great offenses against each other and it was a high scoring game just like I thought it would be. This was definitely a very exciting game.

The Packers were up 15 points going into the fourth quarter but then Dak Prescott and the Cowboys said came back to tie up the game with about 4 minutes left. The Packers answered back with a field goal followed by a Cowboys field goal, and Aaron Rodgers had 35 seconds to do his thing.

With 12 seconds left, he made an extremely athletic play by running to his left and throwing a bullet with his right hand to tight end Jared Cook who caught it while keeping in bounds, leaving just three seconds on the clock. Packers kicker Mason Crosby then went on to kick a 51 yard field goal that started wide left but then sailed enough to the right to split the goal posts to win the game.

I think that the Cowboys needed to feed Ezekiel Elliot the ball more in the first quarter to

set the pace of the game. Dak Prescott also proved that he is not just any lucky rookie quarterback that somehow got his team the one seed, but he is a quarterback who knows how to fight.

The Steelers/Chiefs matchup was also a great game. The Steelers dominated offensively for the most part but they just couldn't get into the end zone. Steelers kicker Chris Boswell was 6 for 6 scoring all 18 points for the Steelers. The Chiefs meanwhile didn't have as good of an offense as the Steelers but the defense didn't let them get into the end zone, allowing the Chiefs to stay in the game. The Chiefs scored a touchdown with a little under 3 minutes left and needed to get the two-point conversion to tie the game. The Chiefs got it at first, but due to a holding penalty that had nothing to do with the play, they had to try again and failed. The Steelers went on to hold the ball and win the game.

Overall, it was a great weekend of exciting football and Jesse's Pick went three for four getting the Packers and Cowboys matchup wrong.

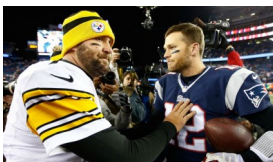
Conference Championships

The Conference Championships are this Sunday and three of the four quarterbacks competing have a ring. All four teams have amazing offenses and it all is going to come down to whose defense can come through and make stops when needed. I predict both games will be high scoring.

The NFC conference championship game takes place on Sunday afternoon at 3:05 which features the Green Bay Packers and the Atlanta Falcons. The Packers are coming off a tough victory whereas the Falcons had a little bit of an easier game. Aaron Rodgers and Matt Ryan are arguably the two best quarterbacks in the league this year and I think it will be a quarterback duel. Packers receiver Jordy Nelson is not ruled out for the game yet and that would be a huge addition if he is available.

The Falcons have a better running game than the Packers and if they watch film from the Cowboys and Packers last week, they might be wise enough to control the clock. I think this will be a VERY good game of football but even though the Falcons are home in the end, I really believe that Aaron Rodgers will come through just like he did against the Cowboys and win again on the road. **Jesse's Pick: Packers.**

Continued on page 3



The Eyes of Fire



By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

I wake, realizing what I failed to remember, the most important thing since the beginning of time itself... Today was Saturday!

Struggling out of bed, I walk toward my doorway on the right, like any other day, and - Ouch! I slam into the wall, my head throbbing like a demented alien egg about to hatch. *I must be out of it today*, I think, and walk towards the sliver of light on the left. I open the door quickly, without a noise, so I can live in peace for ten minutes or so without my parents nagging me to make breakfast (What is this, Chopped!? I'm only 14 and I'm forced to do *all* the cooking around here) and walk into the strange, crooked hallway. I shamble down the drastically tilted steps and walk into the demolished family room. Wait. **WHAT THE BLOOD!?** My house is *not* at all this way.

"**MOM! MOOOOOOOM!**" I scream, confused and afraid of this new place. I see my parents' room's door open, and my parents walk out. Same with my brother's room. Except for the fact the my parents aren't *demons with huge wings, ethereal purple mist floating around them, with fiery satanic eyes scary enough to make most adults hide in the closet and cry.* (Maybe my brother is, though, but I digress, as I'm kind of about to die here.) I run, outside, and the demons scream my name—



JEREMY!!!! - and as soon as I am outside, into the yard (or rather, the new and improved forest of doom trees with giant spikes instead of branches and knife-sharp sheets of silver for leaves) and immediately hear a howl like a pack of wolves. Which, ironically, is exactly what surrounds me, stopping me from completing my heroic escapade of *getting out of this living Armageddon and finding the FBI.*

The wolves, with their porcupine-like quills replacing fur and their flaming eyes like the demons before them, growl and pant, watching, the collective stare like a million gods ready to smite me from above. And I do the only thing I know how to: I burst into flames, stomping, tearing, throwing, blasting molten lava from my hands and eyes, destroying the wolves, as I realize the truth.

I am one of them.

I jolt up in my bed, a cold sweat on my face. I calm my heartbeat and remind myself that it was a nightmare - See? The door is on the right. My clock reads 2:07, and my phone lies on the desk with a million notifications, everything from Snapchat to Trivia Crack to iMessages. *Kids never sleep, huh*, I think. I glance in the mirror in front of my room, and to my half-awake mind's horror, leathery, bat-like wings unfurl behind me, I feel a pressure lift off my shoulder blades, and I see my fate.

I see my eyes of fire.



'I Love You'



By Sabrina Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

"I won't"
"No"
"I can't"
"Stop!"
"Go away"
"I hate you"
"I don't want to"
"Please?"
"I'm sorry"
"I love you..."



"I love you too"
"Wait so that's a yes?"
"No. Clean your room."

Playoff Update

From page 2

The AFC conference championship take place after the NFC at 6:40. The Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots battle for the AFC title.

The Steelers are made up of the three B's (Ben, Bell, and Brown) who have carried this team to where they are now. The Steelers know how to drive the ball down the field but they have to work on getting into the end zone. I'm sure coach Tomlin is working on converting this week because if they don't, the game will be out of hand for the Steelers. The Patriots meanwhile are the favorite to win but Tom Brady had a rough week

last week. He got knocked down a couple times and wasn't very happy.

I think the Patriots will go heavy on Dion Lewis and Julian Edelman and the Steelers will be in trouble if they can't find a way to stop them. However, I don't think the Pats will be able to stop the Steelers offense like the Chiefs did in the red zone especially running back Le'Veon Bell.

When Patriots coach Bill Belichick was asked about how much home field advantage would help, he replied "I don't know. Go ask Dallas and Kansas City." Belichick was obviously trying to be modest but I really think the Steelers offense is going to get in the end zone this week and pull off a victory on the road. **Jesse's Pick: Steelers.**